

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the previous rejections.

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview of July 21, 2003. Prior to the interview, the undersigned called the Examiner to inquire if the amendment of independent claims as made in this Preliminary Amendment would overcome the pending obviousness rejections in the Action of May 12, 2003. The Examiner called the undersigned after reviewing the case and cited references on July 21, 2003 and said that the amendment of "base material" to --polymeric base material-- in the independent claims would overcome the pending rejections. However, the Examiner said that he would need to undertake a new search. Thus, Applicants are filing a RCE application with this Preliminary Amendment.

The support for the amendment of "base material" to --polymeric base material-- in the independent claims is disclosed in the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6, in particular, "[b]ase materials ... of ... polymer resin" supports a "polymeric base material."

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, reference No. 360842007400. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: July 23, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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